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ABSTRACT

This booklet (one of a series of 10 booklets in a reading project to benefit Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky) contains 10 stories especially written for third graders by educators. The stories are about: various kinds of disabilities; accidents and accident prevention; childhood illnesses; children's reactions to hospital stays; dealing with personal differences; and similar topics. Students read the stories in the booklet and answer comprehension questions, and pledges are made by parents and friends for each question answered. The stories or story topics may be used in the classroom for instructional purposes and are intended to help integrate arts, social studies, health, and creative arts. (MG)

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KOSAIR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S

READATHON

KIDS HELPING KIDS

GRADE 3

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What is it?

It is an educational project designed to benefit KOSAIR Children's Hospital. Students at each grade level (K-8) read ten stories and answer comprehension questions. Pledges are made by parents and friends for each question answered.

What are these stories about?

The stories are about: diseases; accidents; accident prevention; children's reactions to hospital stays; dealing with personal differences; etc. For older children, the topics of alcohol and drug abuse are also included. Many of these stories highlight personal triumphs.

Who reads these stories?

Any child whose teacher and parent(s) support the project.

Can children receive help with reading and answering questions?

Yes. Parents are encouraged to help their child (regardless of reading ability) read and answer the questions.

How much instructional time will this take?

Very little. Teachers simply take a child's word for his participation and record the money returned. Upon completion of the program, the teacher completes a brief checklist for any prizes earned.

BENEFITS

Reading/Writing Experience

These stories are interesting and educationally sound at each grade level. The questions following each selection are based on a new questioning strategy. Children will be actively engaged in the reading/writing process.

Philanthropy

Children learn to be helping members of society as they raise money for less fortunate children.

Parental Involvement/Interaction

Children will have the opportunity to discuss with parents ideas and concerns that may never have been brought out without the questions following these stories.

Integration of Subjects

Teachers may use stories or story topics in the classroom for instructional purposes. Teachers will be provided with motivational and educational strategies to accompany these stories. These ideas help integrate the language arts, social studies, health, and creative arts. Many are based on whole language ideas, and higher level thinking skills are encouraged.

Intrinsic and Extrinsic Rewards

All children will receive an achievement certificate signifying their participation in the program. Children who collect $10 or more in pledges will receive prizes for their accomplishments. Best of all, children will gain a sense of pride as they help other children.

For more information, you may write of call: Susan Ramp Ridout, Ph.D.
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Indiana University Southeast
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New Albany, Indiana 47150
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Kosair Children's Hospital's

READATHON

KIDS HELPING KIDS

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STORIES WRITTEN BY EDUCATORS FROM INDIANA AND KENTUCKY

A LETTER TO THE PARENT
ABOUT THIS BOOK AND YOUR CHILD

This booklet contains stories especially written for children of your child's age. They have all been written by educators. Many of them tell of the fears and feelings these educators had when they were children. Some of them are written through the eyes of a parent.

The stories deal with topics which are sometimes difficult for us to think or talk about. Yet, these very topics are the ones which our children most desperately need to have an adult share with them. Some of the stories may make you and your child cry or feel sad. Others will lift your spirits in memorable ways. Hopefully, one or two will cause you to say, "I had those same feelings."

It is our sincere hope you will use these stories as starters for a special time of sharing with your child.

No one knows your child better than you do. Therefore, we encourage you to preview the stories before your child reads them or you read them to your child. Some stories may be best read with your child. It is, of course, your right and responsibility to exclude any story which you may feel is beyond your child's present level of maturity.

At the end of each story are questions to be answered. At your discretion, your child may either write or discuss the answers with a responsible adult. Questions which are well suited for discussion are marked with asterisks (*). Questions answered in either form may be counted toward your child's fund raising efforts for the children of Kosair.

These booklets are in their first printing. If you have suggestions or comments which would improve their effectiveness in helping future readers, please call or write to:

Susan J. Gibbs
Director of Annual Giving and Special Events
Children's Hospital Foundation
601 S. Floyd Street
Louisville, KY 40202
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My Dream

Evalina Pinnick
North Harrison Elementary

Guess what? I just had the neatest dream. I went to a new planet called Kind-O. What a place! The leader was called King Rozzie. He had a big house, and it was full of fun things to do. His wife and kids lived there, too.

The planet had a big park in the center where everybody went to play. Nobody ever said anything that was not nice, and everybody played with each other. None of the children teased or made fun. It was great! Not all the creatures on the planet looked the same. Some of them didn't have ears. Some of them didn't have eyes. There were some that had no arms. My favorites were the ones called Zumos. They didn't have any feet. They walked on their hands everywhere they went! But nobody seemed to notice that there were any differences. All the creatures treated each other the same. No one stared at the way somebody else looked. There wasn't any talk of what somebody could not do, only all the neat things they could do!

In the basement of King Rozzie's house, there was a big room where a group of creatures lived. I was told by the Zumos that they were all very sick, and couldn't go out to the big park to play. So King Rozzie made a big room in his house with all kinds of fun things for them. They had a swimming pool, a computer room, a library, and a candy shop. King Rozzie passed a law that every day from 1:00 until 5:00 all the creatures of Kind-O had to go to the big room and visit the sick creatures there. Of course, everyone loved to visit. They would have gone even if King Rozzie had no law.

As I rolled along the streets in my wheelchair, I felt like I belonged on this planet. Nobody stared at my crippled legs like they do on Earth. No one whispered or giggled as I passed by them. Instead, these creatures treated me like a normal person--like a friend. I wanted to stay on this planet forever!

But then my alarm clock went off, and I woke up. I looked around hoping to see the Zumos or King Rozzie, but I realized it was only a dream--a wonderful dream! I sat up and slid myself into my wheelchair. As I rolled down the hallway, I stopped for one last happy thought of my visit to Kind-O. Maybe someday our planet can be so great!

Questions

1. What is the child like in this story?
2. What kind of problem does this child have?
3. How is this child like you?
4. How is this child different from you?
* 5. What might have happened if this child could have stayed on the planet in his dream?
* 6. What do you think would happen if there were no wheelchairs?
* 7. Were the creatures on this planet good or bad? Why?
* 8. How do you think people on Earth should treat this child from now on?
* 9. How would you feel if you couldn't walk?
*10. How will you treat people in wheelchairs from now on?

*Recommended for discussion

The Little Big Surprise

Betty Brandenburg Yundt
Van Voorchis Elementary

Something is definitely going on at my house. It's just a feeling! You know what I mean. My parents get quiet when I come into the room. They spell things they think I don't know. It's so bad that I carry a pocket dictionary. I haven't figured out what they are talking about, but my spelling grades are getting better.

I've figured out some clues. Maybe you can help me solve the big mystery. The first thing I noticed was that my mom and dad are real huggy-huggy now. They always liked each other. Now they act like the teenager next door when she is with her boyfriend. Ugh! I hope this is just a stage my parents are going through. They are too old to act like that!

My parents are also redecorating the room we use as a family room. It used to be my favorite room in the house. Now it has these great big pictures of little bunnies all over the walls. Yuk!

It doesn't make sense to redecorate now. My parents are talking about tightening our money belt. Why did they spend so much on dumb baby bunnies if we don't have any money. I think they are warning me not to ask for a Sago, a new skateboard, and a 10-speed for my birthday next month. Maybe I'll just ask for the Sago.

Maybe the mystery is about my birthday. My parents have begun telling me that I'm a big kid now, and I have to set an example. "For whom," I ask, "my hamster?"

I think the mystery is about my birthday. My parents keep telling me that I'll get a big present, but it will be after my birthday. Maybe that's because we are tightening our money belt.

My parents bought this weird book for me. The first page was all about eggs. I didn't read any further. Maybe we are going to raise chickens for extra money. Wow, that's *rad* !

Mom and Dad also take lessons once a week. Mom takes a pillow to class. It must be a neat school if they let you sleep. Timmy Trask got sent to the principal at our school for sleeping during math.

Mom is also gaining some weight. It's getting embarrassing because Mom is beginning to look like Mrs. Simms down the street, and Mrs. Simms is having a . . . oh, oh!

Questions

1. What is the child in the story like?
2. What does the author mean by "tightening our money belt"?
* 3. What do you think the child in the story should do now that the mystery is solved?
4. What would be a good name for this mystery story?
5. When did you know that the family in the story was expecting a baby?
* 6. What clues helped you solve the mystery?
7. What would happen if a student fell asleep in your class?
* 8. If the child had not figured out the mystery, what could have happened?
* 9. How do you think the child in the story feels about having a new brother or sister?
* 10. How would you feel if you found out that you would soon have a new baby sister or brother?

*Recommended for discussion

Jeanie's Long Day

Shirley Hargis
Southern Elementary

Today was Monday, Jeanie's favorite day. After school today, Dad would drive her to gymnastics class. Jeanie was a natural athlete. She was always doing flips and tumbles. Every Monday afternoon after school, Jeanie had a one hour class at Tumble Time Studio. Today was a special Monday. Jeanie would be using the new bars at the studio along with her gymnastics.

Dad drove to school. Jeanie was ready and waiting.

"Hi, Jeanie. Have a nice day?"

"Great, Dad. You know Monday is my favorite day. I didn't think school would ever end today. I've been so excited about the bars."

Dad smiled. "Won't take long now, Jeanie."

Some of Jeanie's friends were already waiting when Jeanie got to Tumble Time. Class would start in another five minutes.

"Be careful," said Dad, "and be sure and listen to Miss Mary."

"I'll be fine, Dad. Don't worry so much. See you in an hour."

"Everyone calm down and get in line," said Mary. "Jeanie, you go first with front rolls, and each girl take a turn. I know you're all excited. After our gymnastics, we'll all have a turn on our new bars. Until you improve and know what to do, you'll need me to stay with you for your own safety."

Jeanie wasn't listening. She couldn't wait to show her friends what she could do on those bars.

"Now, Class, let's line up at the bars." It was finally Jeanie's turn.

"Hold on and swing your weight," instructed Mary. "Drop and swing. Drop and swing."

Jeanie felt as if she was flying. This was great! All Jeanie's friends were watching. Jeanie was always one of the best in the class. She loved it!

"I'll see you next week," said Miss Mary. "Girls, get off the bars. Remember what I said. You need me to help you until you get more familiar with the bars."

Jeanie had to stay just a minute longer--just one more before Dad came. It was so much fun, and it would be a whole week before she would be back. She would hurry before Miss Mary made her get down.

Suddenly Jeanie fell!

"Please help!" Jeanie cried. She was so scared. "Oh, please, someone help. Where is Dad? I'm so sorry, Miss Mary, I shouldn't have been on the bars without you."

Dad was coming. He would help. He would know what to do about the pain in her arm.

"Oh, Dad, I hurt so badly. It's my arm," cried Jeanie.

"We'll go see Dr. Williams. He'll tell us what to do," explained Dad.

Dr. Williams had known Jeanie since she was a baby. He was a kind, gentle person. He had always taken care of all her aches and pains.

"Jeanie, I'm going to give you a shot to make you sleepy. You have a compound fracture in your left arm. You'll need an operation so your arm can mend correctly. You won't know anything about it; you'll be asleep. When you wake up, you'll have a new cast on your arm. All your friends will be able to sign their names, and you can tell them what a brave girl you were."

Jeanie was waking up. Mom and Dad were standing by her hospital bed. Her arm still hurt, and there was a new cast on it. Dr. Williams was smiling at her.

"Good to see you awake, Jeanie," greeted Dr. Williams. "You've been a brave girl, and you should be fine in about six weeks. I know it hurts a little now, but in a few days the pain will go away. You can attend school next week, but no gymnastics for about three months. We'll have to give your arm time to heal and get strong again. I'll be back in a little while to let your mom and dad take you home."

Jeanie was so sad. She hadn't listened to Miss Mary. If only she had stayed off the bars as she had been told. "Mom, I'm so sorry that I didn't listen and follow Mary's instructions. She told us not to use the bars without her help. When I get home, may I call and say I'm sorry?"

Next week at school, all Jeanie's friends were glad to see her. They had been so worried about her. Jeanie showed her friends her new cast and explained what had happened.

Questions

1. Why was this Monday different from other Mondays?
2. What caused Jeanie to have a long day?
3. What was the first thing that the girls did in gymnastics class?
* 4. What do you know about gymnastics?
5. What is meant by the words "compound fracture" and "mend?"
* 6. What will this accident mean to Jeanie three months from now? Six months from now?
* 7. If you were to break your arm, how would you feel about going to the hospital?
* 8. How might things have been different if Jeanie had broken her arm at school?
* 9. How do you think the rest of the class will react to Jeanie's accident?
* 10. How do you feel when you are good at something as Jeanie was at gymnastics?

*Recommended for discussion

My Sis and Me!

Evalina Pinnick
North Harrison Elementary

My sister's name is Addie, and she's a lot of fun.
We play outside together. We ride our bikes and run.

We even have a clubhouse way up in that tree.
But my little sister Addie isn't just like you and me.

She can do lots of neat things, but there's one thing she can't do.
When you try to talk to her, my sister can't hear you.

Tommy will not play with her. He teases her a lot.
I know it hurts her feelings, but she says that it does not.

Sometimes when I tell her that it really makes me mad,
She tries hard not to cry, but she still looks very sad.

I know it is not easy. She misses lots of things.
She can't hear Mom tell stories, or Grandma when she sings.

She can't talk the same way we do. She tries, but no one understands.
So she has her own way of talking. She does it with her hands!

She moves her little fingers. We call it our "secret code."
We tell each other stories as Dad drives down the road.

Addie went to the hospital. They did all kinds of tests.
Addie did not like them, but she knew that they were best.

The doctors were real nice, and the nurses were kind, too.
They really tried to help her, but there was nothing they could do.
It's something she was born with. It will never go away.
But I still hope that Addie will be able to hear someday.

Even if she can not hear, there's lots that she can do.
She can read, and add, and ride a bike, just like me and you.

Just treat her like a normal kid; will you do that, please?
Don't you be like Tommy and say ugly things or tease.

If you treat <u>all</u> people kindly, I think that you will see,
You can have a lot of fun, just like my sis and me.

Questions

1. What is Addie like?
2. What kind of problem does Addie have?
3. How is Addie different from you?
4. How is Addie like you?
5. What might have happened if the doctors could help Addie?
6. What do you think would happen if Addie could not talk with her hands?
7. Was Tommy right or wrong? Why?
8. How do you think Tommy would treat Addie if he could not hear, either?
9. How would you feel if you could not hear?
10. How will you treat people who can not hear or are different from you in some way?

Invasion of the Chicken Pox

Kelley Albin Churchill
North Harrison Elementary

I guess you have heard of the chicken pox, huh? I had heard of them, too, but I did not know very much about them. I sure do now, though, because one day chicken pox creatures invaded my body!

Chicken pox invaded me on Mother's Day. My mom said that was one present she could have done without! I had been mushroom hunting with my family. When we got home, it was time for my bath. Mom started washing my hair, and there it was, the first little chicken pox creature, right on the back of my neck.

The next day was kind of neat because my dad stayed home with me. Only a few of those little creatures were living on me. But, the day after that is when the real invasion took place! The chicken pox creatures started showing up all over, and I do mean all over my body. As if it was not bad enough to have ugly spots all over me, they itched, too!

For the next few days all I heard was, "Do not scratch, Meghan!" It was really hard to keep from scratching those creatures because they itched so much! Mom went to the drug store to get some medicine for me. It was supposed to help stop the itching, but it didn't. I even tried hiding under my blanket to scratch, but Mom and Dad were too smart for that. Oh, well!

After about six days, my spots stopped itching and started looking a little better. Boy, was I glad! My first dance recital was only one week away, and I didn't want to wear ugly chicken pox creatures to that.

My mom and dad were glad I was feeling better. Both of them could go back to work and stop saying, "Do not scratch, Meghan!" A few nights later, just when things were getting back to normal, Mom noticed a couple of red spots on my baby brother's head. Oh, no! Here we go again!

Questions

1. When did Meghan discover that she had chicken pox?

* 2. Why did Meghan think it was kind of neat having chicken pox at first?

3. How is Meghan like you?

4. Why did Meghan hide under her blanket?

* 5. How do you think Meghan got the chicken pox?

6. Why did Meghan take medicine?

7. Why did Meghan hope her spots would go away fast?

* 8. What would happen if Meghan scratched her chicken pox?

* 9. Do you think Meghan felt bad because her baby brother got the chicken pox from her? Why?

* 10. Do you think it would bother you to have ugly little chicken pox creatures all over your body? Why?

*Recommended for discussion

The Lesson

Laurie S. Bee
Eastern Kentucky University

My name is I. B. Tiny. I am an ant. Several years ago I was attending an ice cream social at McElroy High. Everyone seemed to be having a good time eating ice cream. They were chatting about the new school year and the upcoming football season. I, of course, was in seventh heaven. I walked from person to person, licking up drops of ice cream that had spilled on the ground.

When I first arrived, I didn't know that this social was for all persons involved in sports. There were football players, basketball players, baseball players, golfers, tennis players, cross-country runners, track runners, and, last, but not least, cheerleaders. How on Earth could I leave out the cheerleaders? They began to practice their stunts and gymnastics right in the middle of the social event. How could they do such a thing?

My belly was quite full of ice cream by this time. I decided to enjoy what the cheerleaders were doing. All the other folks had begun to circle around the girls. I climbed the nearest tree to catch all the action. The cheerleaders had formed a line. They were taking turns doing back-handsprings and other gymnastics. I'd always been amazed at how they could bend in these odd ways, so I began to really watch and pay attention.

One girl kept building on the number of back-handsprings she did in a row. They weren't the best, but she seemed to improve with each run. She was definitely showing off! She seemed to be proud of her ability.

I began to get quite bored with this certain cheerleader. I started climbing down my tree. Then I heard a loud *POP* ! I looked up and saw the cheerleader clutching her forearm with a look of shock on her face. She had turned her arm while reaching back in one of her handsprings. I ran as fast as I could to catch a ride on her tennis shoe and avoid getting squashed. I also wanted to see what she had done to her arm.

People were beginning to crowd around the girl. I heard her tell one of the other cheerleaders that she thought her arm was broken. Soon her parents came running over. She and I were soon in the back seat of her parent's car on our way to the emergency room. The cheerleader began to tell her parents that she had had a two-hour cheerleading practice after school that day. She had learned how to do her round-off back-handspring. She had done it the full two hours of practice. Then she began to cry. She said, " Life isn't fair! If my arm is broken, it will ruin my cheerleading career forever!" In my hidden place as a stowaway, I thought that just maybe she was right.

We arrived at the hospital, and x-rays were soon taken. The cheerleader's fears were real. Her arm was broken. Her parents told her that her arm muscles were probably weak from her two-hour practice. They also explained that she probably shouldn't have been showing off when she'd just learned how to do the handsprings. Although I am just an ant, I agreed completely.

A cast was put on the cheerleader's arm. Tears were brimming in her eyes. She had six weeks to wear the cast and six more to wear a splint. If she was lucky, she might get to cheer near the end of the basketball season. Cheering during the football season was definitely a "no-go." I felt sorry for my new-found friend. I also knew she should have built her talents slowly. Instead, she wanted to show off the little talent she had which, needless to say, was not that much. She had learned a lesson; she did it the hard way. As an ant, I've seen that many humans learn things the hard way.

But why?

Questions

1. What happened to the cheerleader?
2. Who was I. B. Tiny?
* 3. Why do you think the author wrote this story?
* 4. How do you think the cheerleader felt after she broke her arm?
* 5. Describe a similar experience you may have had.
* 6. Would you want the cheerleader for a friend? Explain.
* 7. What do you think will happen after the cheerleader gets her cast off?
* 8. How do you think the cheerleader's parents felt when she broke her arm?
9. Where was the ant when the girl broke her arm?
*10. Do you think the cheerleader learned her lesson? What lesson did you learn?

*Recommended for discussion

It's OK to be Different

Kathy Lizenby
Clarksville High School

I grew up around people who were crippled. My uncle was on crutches. My aunt limped on one leg. My cousin was in a wheelchair. She could not move from her chest down. And here I was. What's wrong with me? I needed no crutches to walk. I didn't limp, and I didn't have a special chair.

As a child I pretended to limp. I sat in a chair and pretended it had rollers so I could move without walking. I pretended to walk on crutches with two sticks under my arms.

I didn't want to be different. One day I asked my mom, "What's wrong with me?" I am not a special person. I'm not normal. "Why am I different?" I want to be like my aunt or my uncle or my cousin. I want a special chair, or crutches, or even a limp. Mom gave me a strange look. She said that it was not me who was different. She said it was my aunt, uncle, and cousin who were different. They needed special help to move. She said I was special just because I was me. She also said that I was very lucky to know these special people.

Well, now I realize that I don't need special help to be different. I don't need a wheel chair. I don't need a limp. I don't need crutches. I also realize that everyone is different in some way. I also understand that it's all right and sometimes even fun to be different.

Questions

1. What did the uncle, aunt, and cousin use to move around?
2. How is one person in the story different from you?
3. How is one person in the story like you?
* 4. I f you could meet the person in the story, what questions would you ask?
5. Why do you think the child thought she was different?
* 6. What would you do if suddenly you found out you were different from everyone around you?
* 7. How are you different from those around you?
* 8. How would you treat those people who are different from you?
* 9. Just because you might be different, does that make you more special than another person? Why?
* 10. What might you do to make life easier for those who need special help to move?

*Recommended for discussion

A Quiet Place

Carolyn Caldwel

I am Rachel, and I am eight years old. I have a baby brother named Evan. I have one special friend, too. His name is William, and he is my Teddy bear. My mom is very special, too. She plays with me, and sometimes we bake cookies. My mom is very pretty, but sometimes she doesn't look pretty because my dad gets angry and hits her. Often, when we go shopping, she wears dark glasses because her eyes are all puffy and black. She also cries a lot when we're alone.

I always wonder why we make Daddy so angry. Mommy and I try so hard to do everything he tells us. When he comes home at night, I get so frightened. He screams at my mommy, and he throws things. My brother screams and cries because he is afraid, too. When Dad really gets loud and scary, I take William with me. We go into my closet. William has very soft hands, and he puts them over my ears. Then we pretend that we are very far away and no one can find us and hurt us. Sometimes we even fall asleep. Later Mommy will come find us.

It makes me sad to see my mommy hurt. I'm so afraid that she might be hurt really badly sometime, and I will not have her anymore. I wish that I could help her, but I'm too small, so I stay in my quiet place with William. Maybe someday we will all find a quiet place to go where Mommy will be safe and never be hurt again. I love my mommy and daddy very much, and Daddy says he loves us, too. He also says that he's sorry and buys us presents. Maybe Daddy doesn't know how to love us. Maybe William could tell him.

Sometimes at school, I'm not very friendly. It's hard to do my work because I'm worried about Mommy. I hope she will find a place to go soon. William says we should just wait because there are people who can help us, and Mommy will call them soon.

When I grow up, I hope my husband will be friendly and kind like William. I hope our house will be a warm, quiet place so my little girl will never be afraid.

Questions

1. Who were the little girl's friends?

2. Where was her quiet place?

3. Why did she need a quiet place?

4. Why was she worried about her mommy?

* 5. How did the little girl feel about her father?

* 6. Do you know any place her mother could have gotten help?

* 7. How do you know the little girl was worried about her brother?

* 8. What do you think caused Daddy to be so angry?

* 9. What could you do to help someone who has the same problem?

*10. Do you have a quiet place where you can go? What do you think about in your quiet place?

*Recommended for discussion

A Needle for Christmas

Diana Eberle
North Harrison Elementary

Hello! My name is Craig. Let me tell you a story about my special needle. The story begins almost at Christmas time. I went to visit my friend Stacy. We were going to string popcorn. The popcorn strings were for the Christmas tree.

First Stacy's mom popped the corn. She gave each one of us a needle and thread. We were all stringing popcorn, laughing, and talking. We ate as much as we strung! After stringing popcorn for awhile, we began to get tired. We decided to play hide-and-seek. I took off my shoes so I could "sneak" without being heard. That was a mistake!

When I found Stacy, I asked her to look at my foot. We could see a tiny red dot of blood. Stacy put a band-aid on it for me. But, when I tried to walk, I couldn't! It really hurt!

Stacy told my mom to come and look at my foot.

My mom asked, "Did you pick up the needles when you were finished stringing the popcorn?"

We said, "NO!"

My dad stepped on a needle when he was a little boy. It broke off inside his foot. Mom thought I had done the same thing. I was scared!

Mom called the doctor. He told us to go the hospital. At the hospital the doctor took an x-ray of my foot. The x-ray was a picture of my insides. The doctor showed us the x-ray. There was the needle inside my foot. Now I was really scared.

The doctor told me he would take it out in the morning. He said that I wouldn't even feel it! I was so tired. I fell asleep in my mom's arms.

The next morning Mom woke me up. A nurse took me to the operating room. The doctor put a mask on my face, and I went to sleep again. The next thing I knew, I was back in my hospital room. The doctor came in. He told me I had been a brave boy. Then he gave

me a piece of paper. Taped to the paper was a needle. I still have the needle. It is now taped to the inside of my baby book. I will never forget that night. It is a story I will tell my children before they string popcorn!

Questions

1. What time of year was it?
2. What were the children doing?
3. Why did the children quit stringing popcorn?
4. What happened to Craig while he was sneaking around?
5. What did Stacy do to help make Craig feel better? Why didn't it help?

* 6. What is an x-ray?
* 7. Why do you think the doctor put a mask over Craig's face?
* 8. How do you think Craig's mom felt?
* 9. Why do you think the doctor saved the needle for Craig?
* 10. What can you learn form this accident?

*Recommended for discussion

Barney Bear's Adventure

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One fine, sunny day Mother Bear sent Little Barney Bear on an errand. He was to take some fresh baked bread to Grandma Bear.

Mother Bear reminded him to be careful along the way and not to speak to strangers. She also told him to stop by the Kroger store close to Grandma's house for some fresh fish for dinner.

Barney started off as happy as any little bear could be. He had his basket of bread for Grandma Bear. He whistled along the way as he skipped down the road.

The tulips were in bloom. The lily-of-the-valley sent off a lovely smell, and the grass smelled good and fresh after last night's rain.

Little Barney hurried on his way. By and by he met Sally Squirrel and Charlie Chipmunk. They were very good friends. They were in the same class at the Animal Valley School.

As all children will do, they had to talk to each other and give each other the latest news that each had to share. School was out for Spring Break.

Before you knew it, the three friends were playing "Hide and Seek." Sally Squirrel was "it" while the little chipmunk and small bear hid. Charlie chose a rock to hide behind, and Barney climbed a large oak tree.

Sally was busy looking for her two friends when all of a sudden she heard a tremendous noise! Then she heard the sound of someone crying. She ran to the spot where the noise came from. There was Barney lying on the ground. He was crying as if his heart would break.

Sally asked him what had happened. Barney told her that as he was hiding in the tree, he had seen some honey in the hollow part of the tree. (You know how bears love honey!) Barney had climbed onto a smaller branch to reach the honey. When he did, the branch broke bringing Barney down with it.

By this time Charlie had heard the noise. He ran over to see what was wrong. Sally told him what had happened.

Charlie ran to Barney's house and told Mother Bear what happened. She called the ambulance just in case Barney had broken something.

The ambulance and Mother Bear arrived at the same time. After examining Barney the paramedics found that Barney had a broken arm. In no time Barney was whisked off to the Animal Valley Hospital.

Upon arrival Barney was taken to the emergency room where they took his pulse and blood pressure. The doctor also took a little blood from the tip of his paw. It didn't hurt too much.

From the emergency room Barney was taken to Surgery. Dr. Wolf was waiting for him. He told Barney that he would give him something to make him sleep. Then he would set his arm and put a white cast on it. The cast would hold the bones in place while they mended.

When Barney woke up, he was in the recovery room. (This is where you wait until you wake up from surgery.) Mother and Father Bear were standing by his bed. It sure was good to see them!

Barney wanted to know where Charlie Chipmunk and Sally Squirrel were. Mother told him that they had gone home. She also let him know that Sally had taken the bread to Grandma Bear on her way home.

Barney had to stay in the hospital for a few days just to make sure his arm would be all right. He got a room in the children's wing.

Barney enjoyed his stay in the hospital. There were storytime, games, VCR movies, and the delicious food. Barney Bear got to know the other little animals in the room with him. He liked Susie Skunk, Oliver Owl, and Becky Beaver.

Susie had a broken leg, Oliver had a wing problem, and Becky had her tonsils taken out. All of these small animals became friends in the few days they were together.

Barney had visitors, too. There were Mother Bear, Father Bear, and his grandparents. The nurse also let his older sister, Betty, in to see him for a few minutes.

The biggest surprise for Barney came when Charlie and Sally got to visit. Sally brought him a puzzle to work, and Charlie brought Barney some honey candy.

It seemed as if they had just gotten to the hospital when it was time to leave. Barney told his new friends good-bye. On the way home, he made up his mind never again to go after honey in a tree before checking the branch.

Questions

1. What is Barney Bear like?
2. What is meant by paramedics?
3. What was the problem?
4. What would be another name for Sally Squirrel and Charlie Chipmunk?
* 5. When someone is hurt, what is the best thing to do?
* 6. How did Barney get help?
* 7. What should be done after help comes?
8. Why did Barney's accident happen?
* 9. What could have happened if Barney hadn't climbed the tree?
* 10. What did you learn from this story?

*Recommended for discussion